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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
SSC-01 /064 W
----------050304Z 021785 /70
R 041050Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6827
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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BANGKOK FOR AMBASSADOR REED

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CE
SUBJECT: PM AND SUBASINGHE EXCHANGE LETTER ON RESIGNATION

REF: COLOMBO 750

SUMMARY: T.B. SUBASINGHE, FORMER MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS, WHO RESIGNED FROM THE CABINET MAR. 1 (REFTEL) HAS ALSO RESIGNED FROM THE SRI LANKA FREEDOM PARTY (SLFP). HE HAS SO FAR REFUSED TO COMMENT ON FUTURE POLITICAL PLANS, IF ANY. IN AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS RELEASED TO THE PRESS, SUBASINGHE AND THE PM HAVE POLITELY SET OUT THEIR DIFFERENCES, HE ARGUING THAT THE SLFP HAS MOVED RIGHTWARD AND SHE RESPONDING THAT THE PARTY HAS CARRIED OUT THEIR MANIFESTO AND THAT SUBASINGHE'S ALLEGIANCE HAD NEVER REALLY BEEN TO THE SLFP. END SUMMARY.

1. T.B. SUBASINGHE, WHO RESIGNED AS MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS MAR. 1, HAS NOW ALSO LEFT THE SLFP. HE HAS NOT, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, JOINED
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ANY OTHER POLITICAL PARTY NOR HAS HE MADE ANY COMMENT ON HIS FUTURE POLITICAL PLANS, IF ANY. HE IS CERTAINLY BEING SOUGHT TO PLAY A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN SOME ELEMENT WITHIN THE LANKA SAMA SAMAJA PARTY'S (LSSP) WOULD-BE SOCIALIST UNITED FRONT ALTHOUGH NEWSPAPER REPORTS HAVE SPECULATED THAT HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO TAKE AN ACTIVE OPPOSITION ROLE.

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2. HIS PUBLIC LETTER OF RESIGNATION TO THE PM DOES NOT GIVE A HINT OF HIS FUTURE PLANS ALTHOUGH ITS REASONED TONE CONTRASTS WITH THE USUAL INVECTIVE EMPLOYED BY THE LSSP IN ITS ATTACKS ON THE PM AND HER PARTY. SUBASINGHE'S LETTER,WHILE COUCHED IN GENERALITIES, AND NAMING NO NAMES, IS AIMED AMONG OTHERS AT FINANCE MINISTER FELIX DIAS BANDARANIKE, A COMMON TARGET OF THE LEFTISTS. SUBASINGHE CRITICIZES THE "ILL THOUGHT-OUT FINANCIAL POLICIES NOW BEING PURSUED" AND THE "INVISIBLE GOVERNMENT" FUNCTIONING UNDER THE CONTROL OF PEOPLE WHO WERE "NOWHERE NEAR THE UNITED FRONT." HE ATTRIBUTES HIS RESIGNATION ALSO TO THE BREAKUP OF THE UNITED FRONT, CALLING THE PM'S DECISION TO OUST THE LSSP IN 1975 A "SHATTERING BLOW" TO THE UNITY HE HAD FOUGHT FOR IN ESTABLISHING THE UF.

3. RESPONDING IN A LETTER WHICH WAS SUSPICIOUSLY REMINISCENT OF FELIX BANDARANIKE'S DEBATING STYLE,THE PM ALSO REFRAINED FROM HARSH PERSONAL INVECTIVE. IN FACT, SHE STRESSED THAT SHE BORE HIM NO PERSONAL ILL-WILL AND THANKED HIM FOR HIS SERVICE IN THE GOVERNMENT. THE MAIN TEXT OF HER LETTER DEALT WITH HIS PARTICIPATION IN AND SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS OF HER GOVERNMENT. SHE POINTED OUT THAT SUBASINGHE HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF THE SLFP AND HAD ATTAINED THE OFFICE OF VP OF THE PARTY BY ACCEPTING ITS PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES. THE GOAL OF THE SLFP HAD ALWAYS BEEN A MIXED ECONOMY AND SUBASINGHE HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THAT WHEN CORPORATIONS UNDER HIS MINISTRY HAD SIGNED CONTRACTS WITH LARGE FOREIGN CONCERNS (SHE CITED NORITAKE AND NICHIMAN OF JAPAN AND "A US
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MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATION FOR OFF-SHORE OIL EXPLORATION").

4. THE PM WENT ON TO IMPLICATE HIM IN THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANNING AND FINANCIAL POLICIES,WHICH HE HAD CRITICIZED IN HIS LETTER. SHE SUGGESTED THAT HE HAD REALLY LEFT THE PARTY BECAUSE HE DIDN'T THINK THE PARTY COULD SURVIVE WITHOUT LSSP AND COMMUNIST SUPPORT; SHE WARNED THAT OTHERS WHO HAD THOUGHT SIMILARLY HAD BEEN PROVED WRONG "AT A HEAVY COST TO THEMSELVES." SHE ALSO SPECULATED THAT PERHAPS HE HAD ONLY PROFESSED TO JOIN THE FLFP AND THAT HIS "NATURAL POLITICAL INCLINATIONS AND SYMPATHIES LAY ELSEWHERE" (SUBASINGHE WAS A MEMBER OF THE LSSP UP TO 1955).
PERKINS

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977COLOMB00787
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770076-0126
Format: TEL
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770394/aaaadelz.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d1c9adbd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 COLOMBO 750
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3211263
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PM AND SUBASINGHE EXCHANGE LETTER ON RESIGNATION
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, CE, (SUBASINGHE, T B)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d1c9adbd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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